

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00

SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 L-02 H-01

INT-05 GSA-01 COME-00 OPIC-03 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /102 W

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O R 112040Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 542

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEOBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SANJOSE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2008

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, EMIN, GY
SUBJECT: SOME OBSERVATIONS ON IBA MEETING- GEORGETOWN NOV 4-7

REF: GEORGETOWN 2003 AND EARLIER

1. SUMMARY: IBA MEETING WHICH ENDED IN EARLY HOURS OF MORNING NOV 8 WAS BASICALLY SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FORM OF ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL RHETORIC ORGANIZATION WOULD ADOPT. END SUMMARY.
2. TWO DELEGATIONS AT LEAST (GUYANA AND JAMAICA) HAVE BURNING ISSUE OF BAUXITE LEVY ON WHICH THEY ATTEMPTED TO GET STRONGLY WORDED SUPPORT FROM ALL MEMBERS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THE FAILED TO DO SO, AND THIS SEEMS TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO LONG DELAY IN PREPARATION OF COMMUNIQUE. ANOTHER POSSIBLE FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO DELAY MAY HAVE BEEN AUSTRALIAN AND POSSIBLY DOMREP DES OPPOSITION TO WORDING OF PENULTIMATE AND ANTEPENULTIMATE PARA IN COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), ESPECIALLY WHERE COUNCIL MENTIONED GUYANESE AND JAMAICAN PROBLEM AND TOOK NOTE QUOTE...OF THE PRESSURES AND HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO WHICH THEY WERE BEING SUBJECTED (AND)...RECOMMENDED VTHAT EACH MEMBER COUNTRY TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TOWARDS SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF ALL OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES... UNQUOTE. WE QUESTION WHETHER INDEED THE COUNCIL AGREED FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY ON ANY SPECIFIC STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO PROTECT (GUYANA'S) INTERESTS. REASONABLY OBJECTIVE MEMBERS OF VISITING DELS COULD EASILY SEE THAT ONLY HOSTILE VERBIAGE WAS THAT EMANATING FROM GUYANA IN GOVT-OWNED PRESS.
3. THERE IS CONFLICT IN PENULTIMATE PARA OF COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL) WITH CAIRNS' STATEMENT TO PRESS (GEORGETOWN 2002). "DEVELOPING" IS KEY WORD IN COMMUNIQUE SENTENCE WHICH WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT WESTERN PRODUCERS' MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING THAT OF GREECE.

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OPPOSITION TO SEATING OF LATTER COUNTRY'S DELS AS OBSERVERS HAD STRONG POLITICAL OVERTONES. DESPITE NEGATIVE GREEK REACTION TO USG'S NON-ROLE IN CYPRUS AFFAIR, WE UNDERSTAND THIRD WORLD DELS BELIEVED GREECE NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY DIVORCED FROM US INFLUENCE TO BE TRUSTED MEMBER OF IBA. GREEKS WERE ANGERED AT COOL RECEPTION ACCORDED THEM BY LDC DELS AND OBVIOUS DILATORY TACTICS USED TO PREVENT GREEK SEATING AS OBSERVERS (THREE DAYS WAIT) UNTIL LAST MINUTE. GREEKS MADE NO RPT NO EFFORT TO HIDE THEIR DISPLEASURE.

4. AT ONE SOCIAL FUNCTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING PERIOD, AMBASSADOR HAD FRANK AND OPEN DISCUSSION WITH HEAD OF YUGOSLAV DEL (SMOLE). SMOLE ATTITUDE CHARACTERIZED AS FRIENDLY. HE ADMITTED THAT BAUXITE RESERVES OF YUGOSLAVIA RUNNING OUT AND COUNTRY WOULD SOON BE NET IMPORTER. AT SAME FUNCTION DOMREP DELEGATE CRITICIZED EXPATRIATE BAUXITE FIRMS FOR BEING QUOTE STINGY UNQUOTE AND QUOTE UNREALISTIC UNQUOTE. HE BELIEVED COMPANIES HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE. NEVERTHELESS NEITHER CONVERSATION CONTAINED HINT OF NEAR PARANOIA WHICH PERVADES ANY MENTION OF LEVY BY SOME GUYANESE OFFICIALS.

5. PREDICTABLY, LOCAL PRESS HAS PLAYED COMMUNIQUE AS DEMONSTRATION OF IBA SOLIDARITY IN BACKING GUYANA AND JAMAICA AS THEY STRUGGLE WITH TRANSNATIONALS. IN CURIOUS EDITORIAL IN SUNDAY GRAPHIC (NOV 10), HOWEVER, ENTITLED QUOTE LET REASON PREVAIL UNQUOTE, THERE IS CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT SOME GUYANESE DELS AT MEETING CAME ON TOO STRONG WITH THEIR CASE AGAINST TRANSNATIONALS (READ REYNOLDS). THIS BEHAVIOR WE SURMISE IS BORN IN PART OF FRUSTRATION AT LACK OF CLEAR SUCCESS THUS FAR VIS-A-VIS REYNOLDS IN TRYING TO BETTER THE JAMAICAN EXAMPLE BY COMBINING A BAUXITE LEVY WITH NATIONALIZATION. IT QUITE PROBABLE THAT VISITING DELS RESPONDED TO GUYANA'S ARGUMENT DURING PAST WEEK BY ACKNOWLEDGING INEXTRICABLE LINK BETWEEN GUYANA'S RECENT LEVY AND ITS PLEDGE TO NATIONALIZE COMPANY BY DEC 31 THIS YEAR.
MATTHEWS

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